





















# Water Wise Lawn Alternatives

Keep that green lawn feel without the high water bills.

<p>'UC Verde' Buffalo Grass</p> <p><i>Buchloe Dactyloides</i> 'UC Verde'</p>	 	<p>Planted from plugs. The deep root system uses up to 75% less water and can be mowed every 2-3 weeks or less. Goes dormant in the winter. Ideal to plant during summer.</p>
<p>California Bent Grass</p> <p><i>Agrostis pallens</i></p> <p>(CA Native)</p>	 	<p>Planted from seed or sod. A small perennial grass that goes dormant in the summer with no watering. Light green leaves grow to about 4" high, requires little mowing. Tolerates both sun and shade and foot traffic. Ideal to plant during fall.</p>
<p>California Meadow Sedge</p> <p><i>Carex pansa</i></p> <p>(CA Native)</p>	 	<p>Planted from plugs. Can be mowed or weed wacked regularly, occasionally, or not at all, as you prefer. Traffic tolerant and grows best with sun exposure. Ideal to plant during summer.</p>
<p>Clustered Field Sedge</p> <p><i>Carex praeegracilis</i></p> <p>(CA Native)</p>	 	<p>Planted from plugs. Very similar to <i>Carex pansa</i> but can grow taller. Can be mowed to a lawn or allowed to grow into a meadow with a graceful, floppy habit. Quite resistant to weed infestations. Ideal to plant during summer.</p>
<p>Blue Grama</p> <p><i>Bouteloua gracilis</i></p> <p>(CA Native)</p>	 	<p>Planted from seed. Spreads slowly and tolerates foot traffic. Can mix grama and buffalo grass. The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden has a blue grama lawn as part of their Home Demonstration Garden. Ideal to plant during summer.</p>



<p>Berkeley Sedge or European Grey Sedge</p> <p><i>Carex tumulicola</i> or <i>C. divulsa</i></p> <p>(<i>C. tumulicola</i> is CA Native)</p>	 	<p>Planted from plugs. Both species are clump-forming and can be mowed early on to keep from clumping; otherwise they can be used as meadow. Highly adaptable to slopes, sun, or shady areas. Ideal to plant during summer.</p>
<p>"No Mow" Grass</p>	 	<p>Planted from seed. Blends of fescues which grow to approximately 6", mowing is needed once a month or less. Needs less watering, mowing, fertilizing and weeding than traditional lawns. Seeds sold through <a href="http://www.nomowgrass.com">www.nomowgrass.com</a></p>
<p>Blue Sedge</p> <p><i>Carex flacca</i> or <i>C. glauca</i></p>	 	<p>Planted from plugs. A silver-blue evergreen sedge that spreads slowly and can tolerate foot traffic. Grows to about 6" but can also be mowed. Ideal to plant during summer.</p>
<p>Common Yarrow</p> <p><i>Achillea millefolium</i></p>	 	<p>Planted from seed or plugs. Mow about every 6 weeks, or less if the surface was not going to be walked on. Also great for in between pavers. Flowers without mowing. Some native cultivars are available. Ideal to plant during winter.</p>
<p>Silver Carpet</p> <p><i>Dymondia margaretae</i></p>	 	<p>Planted from plugs. Great for in between permeable pavers or out in the parkway. This is a slowly spreading, very flat groundcover with silver green leaves and tiny yellow flowers in summer. No mowing required. Ideal to plant during winter.</p>

#### LAWN CARE:

- Reduce the size of your lawn to match your needs for recreation.
- Water wisely. Figure out how much water your lawn needs by using the Landscape Watering Calculator and Watering Index at [SaveWaterSB.org](http://SaveWaterSB.org).
- Avoid watering when it is windy, or in the middle of the day when evaporation is high.
- Check your sprinkler system regularly. Many lawns are irrigated at night, so mis-aligned or broken sprinkler heads go undetected.

